

Oral Questions

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, not only was that the position of the Prime Minister and the Government at the time he made that statement at the First Ministers' meeting with aboriginal leaders, that remains the Prime Minister's very specific goal as he and the Government work toward the next meeting in 1987. The Hon. Member is well aware of these issues. I am trying to stress to him that no one person's or no one government's plan has yet brought together the solutions which we so desperately seek as a nation. The Prime Minister is deeply committed to try to solve that issue. This will help us, and I hope that we will have the support of the Official Opposition in bringing forth those best ideas.

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MINES AND MINING

LEAD AND ZINC EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the trade Ministers, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. What is the reaction of the Government to the latest threat to Canada-United States commercial relations, namely, the unwarranted attack by certain United States producers against Canada's lead and zinc exports?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, this request for information is provided for within Section 305 of the United States Trade Act. With regard to the reopening of the mine in the Arctic by Curraugh Resources and the proposed development for the lead smelter for Cominco, we believe that both of these are private sector initiatives and will pass any test requested.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—TERMS OF QUEBEC ACCORD

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. He will be aware that yesterday in Vancouver, Vice-President Bush said that President Reagan broke faith with the commitment he made to the Prime Minister in Quebec City because he had to keep faith with commitments at home and considerations in the United States. Does this mean that this Accord is no longer in place?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, no doubt that is another example of the twist that the hon. gentleman usually puts on questions of that nature. That question has been answered in the House over and over again. The answers given by the

Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs still hold true.

THREAT OF U.S. TARIFF ON CANADIAN CATTLE EXPORTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, in that case the Deputy Prime Minister will be aware that the United States has been launching another initiative in the last few days toward imposing a tariff on our cattle and beef exports to the United States, worth nearly one-half billion dollars annually. Did he raise the issue of this new threat against our cattlemen when he met with Vice-President Bush? Does the Prime Minister plan to raise it in his discussions, or will we simply get another "Dear Ron" letter, written after the fact?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can comment on that. Just before Question Period today a number of Ministers met with Vice-President Bush. The first item on the agenda was trade matters. The Vice-President is very much aware of the concerns that have been expressed in Canada about the actions that are being taken in the United States. I think that was reflected in the speech made by the Vice-President, not in the distortions of that speech that the Hon. Member has consistently used which do no credit to himself or to his Party.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister is getting very close to personal comment.

TARIFF ON BOOK IMPORTS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. His tariffs on American book imports, touted by him as retaliation against the Americans, while really shooting Canadians in the foot, will hit innocent bystanders like the Europeans. Today the European Economic Community's Committee 113 is meeting to consider measures of their own against Canada. Now that the seeds for a trade war have been sown, will the Minister remove this ill-advised, poorly conceived tariff on the Canadian book industry before much more serious damage is done?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have made it clear that the response of the Government to the action taken by the Americans on the shakes and shingles industry was to identify those trade areas that are predominantly with the United States. In this case I believe it was 88 per cent or 90 per cent with the United States. It is not possible under the GATT rules for us to exempt other countries from that type of action. That is the basis for it. She is well aware of the reasons why we have taken that action. If we had not taken that action, I am sure she or some of her colleagues would be the first on their feet to ask why we were rolling over and playing dead when the Americans take this action against us.

Mrs. Finestone: Pick the pharmaceuticals, not the books which put the cultural industries on the table.